

International Partnership of Pittsburgh Presbytery

MISSION

The International Partnership Ministry Team of Pittsburgh Presbytery exists in order to help strengthen and encourage the church for faithful and fruitful discipleship in Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of Blantyre, the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church and beyond. Specifically, this ministry team is charged with coordinating the relationship between the ecclesial bodies known as Pittsburgh Presbytery (Presbyterian Church USA), the Synod of Blantyre (Church of Central Africa: Presbyterian), and the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church as well as individual congregations within those expressions of the church.

ABOUT US

The partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre has, since 1991, been an opportunity for hundreds of people and dozens of congregations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to grow in their faith and learn to serve God patiently, obediently, and passionately.

During the past twenty-five years, nearly 500 Pittsburghers have traveled to Malawi, and we have hosted an equal number of Malawians. The visits have involved relationship building, education events, pastoral exchange, evangelism rallies, medical mission work, and building construction. Thirty-five churches of Pittsburgh Presbytery are twinned with partner churches in the Blantyre Synod. The partnership has caused deep personal friendships to grow both overseas and within Pittsburgh Presbytery.

In 2013, this partnership was expanded to include South Sudan and to become a tripartite partnership where each member can share fruit with each of its two neighbors.



International Partnership of Pittsburgh Presbytery

www.pghpip.org



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*"...a threefold cord is not quickly broken."
Ecclesiastes 4:12*

What is your Church Missing?



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WHAT IS PARTNERSHIP?

Partnership is about face-to-face and faith-to-faith encounters with brothers and sisters in Christ who live in a culture different from our own, but who share faith in Jesus Christ.

Partnership is a vehicle for mutually encouraging one another in faith, mutually growing in faith and in trust of God and of each other, and mutually looking at our strengths and our weaknesses and then encouraging one another to risk and to grow.

- **Building Relationships**—with a church body beyond U.S. boundaries, but connected to PC (USA). This is individual to individual, church to church and Presbytery to Synod.
- **Sharing Spiritual Gifts**—gifts of teaching and preaching, of hospitality and caring, of administration and faith. The gifts are endless.
- **Strengthening Faith**—as people share experiences and life struggles, gain understanding, worship together, partner in ministry opportunities and watch God provide.
- **Joining in Ministry**—as God meets needs on both sides of the partnership through the gifts given to all the partners.



ABOUT MALAWI

.. The “Warm Heart of Africa”

Established in 1891, the British protectorate of Nyasaland became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. Malawi is located in Southern Africa and is bordered by Zambia to the West, Tanzania to the North and East, and Mozambique to the South. The capital city of Malawi is Lilongwe. Malawi has varying terrain and experiences a tropical climate. Malawi has a population of almost 14 million, with 85% living in rural areas. Malawi is among the world's least developed and most densely populated countries. The national language is Chichewa while English is the official language.



About 80% of the population is Christian, about 13% is Muslim and a small percentage still observe traditional African beliefs. Malawi's economy is mainly agricultural. The main agricultural products of Malawi are maize, tobacco, tea, sugarcane, cotton, potatoes, sorghum, cattle and goats. Malawi is an exporter of primary produce and net importer of industrial goods. The economy also depends on substantial inflows of economic assistance from IMF, the World Bank, and individual donor nations.

FROM OUR FOUNDERS

“The purpose of the partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre CCAP, Malawi, is to move us toward the fulfillment of Christ's prayer for unity among his disciples; that all are invited into His Kingdom; that the world may accept the gospel and have faith; that God's love may abound; that the church may grow and be mutually encouraged in faith. (John 17:9 – 24, Isaiah 56:1 –8, Ephesians 4:2- 6, Romans 1:12, 2 John 1:12). Members of God's church cannot be content to be independent or isolated from other Christians. There is no part of the church of Jesus Christ that can be whole and complete without the gifts available to it from the whole church. Only in partnership with each other can the various parts of the church effectively respond to the spiritual, social and physical needs of the people of God. As a result of the partnership friendships have been fostered which enable partners to cross cultural, economic, educational, social, racial and theological boundaries. Trans-congregational relationships have developed in Pittsburgh and Malawi between people who would never have even known each other were it not for this Partnership.”

Rev. Dr. Silas S. Ncozana.



Pictured left to right: The Rev. Dr. William M. Paul, Mrs. Margaret Ncozana, Mrs. Nancy Paul & The Rev. Dr. Silas S. Ncozana